

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00851 051204Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 051130Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3593

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 0851

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, US, JO

SUBJECT: HAWK FINANCING

REF: AMMAN 601

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN LIMITED CONTACT WITH FAHD IN RECENT DAYS; ON FEBRUARY 4 WE RESPONDED TO A QUERY PUT TO US THROUGH FAHD'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT, MAHMOUD MALHAS. NO MENTION HAS BEEN MADE OF HAWK FINANCING, AND WE ASSUME ISSUE SHIFTING PER REFTTEL BACK TO SAUDI EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

2. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT ACCORDING TO RIFA'I, ISSUE OF HAWK FINANCING CAME UP "ONLY PERIPHERALLY" IN HIS FEB 2 MEETING WITH FAHD. WE CAN SEE WHY JORDANIANS MAY NOT WISH TO PRESS THEIR ROLE AS SUPPLIANT AND PREFER THAT USG MAKE PRESENTATION TO SAG ON BEHALF OF HAWK PROJECT BUT RIFA'I SHOULD HAVE PERSISTED IN MAKING CLEAR TO FAHD A MATTER SO IMPORTANT TO GOJ.

3. IN THIS REGARD IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SAUDI ARABIA REGARDS JORDAN AS VITAL TO ITS SECURITY. KING KHALID AND PRINCE FAHD MADE THIS POINT VERY CLEAR TO US LAST SUMMER WHEN IT LOOKED AS IF THE HAWK DEAL MIGHT FALL THROUGH. IT SHOULD PARTICULARLY BE NOTED ALSO, THAT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, WE FACE SOME DIFFICULT, CON-

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00851 051204Z

TENTIOUS ISSUES WHOSE SOLUTION WILL MAKE CONSIDERABLE DEMANDS UPON

THE GOOD WILL THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA.

4. REFTEL RAISES POSSIBILITY THAT STATE OR DOD MIGHT NOT RPT NOT BE CONTACTED BY SAG AS FEB 29 TERMINUS AD QUEM APPROACHES. WE THINK THIS IS LIKELY. SAG HAS MANY DEMANDS ON ITS ATTENTION, AND OTHER ISSUES CAN DISTRACT IT. IF GOJ MOREOVER HAS NOT SPOKEN FORCIBLY AND URGENTLY TO FAHD IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT ANY ACTION BY SAG COULD LOSE MOMENTUM. IF TIME COMES THAT ANOTHER APPROACH IS NEEDED, I WOULD STRONGLY OBJECT TO TAKING ON A LIAISON ROLE BETWEEN TWO ARAB NEIGHBORS UNLESS SAG ASKS US, OR UNLESS IT IS CLEAR THAT A DETERMINED GOJ EFFORT TO SPEAK FRANKLY TO SAG HAS BEEN TRIED AND FAILED.

5. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD ALSO BE MADE BY HUSAIN AND RIFA'I TO STRENGTHEN THEIR NORMAL CHANNEL TO THE SAUDIS, MEANING THEIR REPRESENTATION IN JIDDA. IT REALLY DOES THEM LITTLE CREDIT IN SAUDI EYES TO RUN TO THE AMERICANS TO PLEAD SUCH MATTERS ON THEIR BEHALF, WHEN THEY FAIL TO DO SO THEMSELVES. I SUGGEST TOM PICKERING GIVE A TRY TO INDUCING THE JORDANIANS TO PULL UP THEIR SOCKS HERE AND ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN MORE THAN NAME.

PORTER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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NNN

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